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UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 16 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 15 September 1996 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing violation of the sovereignty of Iraq and intrusion upon its airspace by aggressive United States forces.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 11 and 147 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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* A/51/150.

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Annex

Letter dated 15 September 1996 from the Deputy Prime Minister/Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter to you of 13 September 1996, I should like to direct your attention to the continuing aggressive policy of the United States of America towards Iraq. The aggressive American forces and their supporters have continued to violate our airspace. On 13 September 1996, 42 sorties were flown over southern Iraq, supported by an early-warning AWACS aircraft which took off from Saudi Arabia.

This military action clearly constitutes aggression against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq, contravening the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

On this occasion, I should also like to direct your attention to the matter of the two "no-fly zones" which the United States and the United Kingdom have imposed on Iraq. The Government of Iraq has repeatedly stated that the imposition of these "no-fly zones" constitutes a continuing unilateral act of aggressive armed force directed against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The Government of the Republic of Iraq will require the States that have taken this action to bear international liability for damage sustained by Iraq in consequence thereof.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq asks the United Nations to assume its responsibilities under the Charter by taking appropriate action to put a stop to this aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 11 and 147 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister and
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq